



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

**ISRAELI DEPORTED AFTER FORFEITING \$35,324
AND PLEADING GUILTY TO ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEME**
Nine other aliens also arrested for working illegally in Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported an Israeli man Friday who pleaded guilty in U.S. district court to inducing aliens who had entered the United States on temporary visitor's visas to remain here and work illegally.

Ohad Cohen, 27, also forfeited \$35,324 in proceeds he had earned as a result of employing the aliens.

"This man was a key player in an illegal employment organization," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Wardy of the Omaha ICE office. "It's a high priority for ICE to restore integrity to the nation's legal immigration system. Cohen's removal takes us one step closer to that goal."



As part of the criminal plea agreement reached Jan. 6 with the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Nebraska, Cohen waived his deportation hearing before a federal immigration judge and agreed to a formal deportation as an aggravated felon.

Cohen entered the United States multiple times during 2004 on visitor's visas. In Nebraska, ICE special agents observed him supervising employees and transporting goods and cash as he managed "kiosks" that sold merchandise in Oakview Mall in Omaha, and Gateway Westfield Mall in Lincoln, Neb. It is illegal for visiting aliens on tourist visas to work in the United States.

ICE special agents approached Cohen Dec. 27 outside the American National Bank in Omaha. Cohen fled on foot, and during the ensuing pursuit threw his backpack aside. ICE agents overcame him and recovered the backpack, which contained \$35,324 in U.S. currency.

ICE agents also arrested nine other people working illegally at kiosks in both malls Dec. 14. All were Israeli citizens who had entered the U.S. as visitors; five were working for Cohen. All nine have been deported.

ICE agents in other parts of the upper Midwest disrupted similar illegal employment schemes during December. In Minnesota, a joint FBI-ICE investigation resulted in the arrest of 15 Israelis working illegally at kiosks in multiple locations. ICE agents in Minnesota also seized more than 1,800 electronic game units loaded with illegal copies of more than 70 games copyrighted by such companies as Nintendo of America. One of those arrested, Yonatan Cohen (no known relation), has been criminally charged in federal court in Minneapolis for criminal infringement of copyright.

In Grand Forks, N.D., ICE agents also arrested three Israelis working at a mall kiosk.

Investigations in all three states were conducted with assistance from the North Central Field Intelligence Unit of the Office of Intelligence, a division of ICE.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file Cohen, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.